

CLAIMS

1. A method of managing a project, comprising steps of:
providing a set of templates, each of the templates corresponding to respective tasks of the project to be performed;
5 performing steps of the project in accordance with the templates; and
recording information specified in the templates, during the project.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing a set of templates comprises a step of:
10 selecting a set of templates from among a plurality of sets of default templates.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein substantially all of the project is performed using the templates.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the project includes a step of planning development of a good to be sold commercially.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the project includes a step of implementing an information technology project within an organization.
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6. The method of claim 1, wherein
the performing step includes a step of designing a product; and
one or more of the templates is populated with design information, in advance of performing the designing step.
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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing a set of templates comprises a step of providing templates pre-populated with information for use in the project.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the templates includes information
30 specifying a confidence factor for a respective activity for the template.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of recording comprises a step of storing the information in a field of the template.

10. A method of implementing a project, comprising steps of:

- 5 generating a set of electronic templates, each template corresponding to a respective task for the project;
 retrieving respective templates in conjunction with performance of the respective tasks;
 using the templates to manage the project.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises steps of:

- providing default templates; and
 modifying the default templates to customize them for the project.

15 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of modifying comprises steps of:

- retrieving information from previously completed projects;
 using the retrieved information to determine modifications to the default templates.

20 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of modifying further comprises a step of:
 automatically modifying default templates based on performance in past projects.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises a step of:
 providing question-and-answer prompts to assist in completing one or more tasks.

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15. The method of claim 10, wherein the using step comprises a step of:
 automatically suggesting content for one or more deliverables identified in at least one of the templates.

30 16. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises a step of:
 assigning a confidence factor to each of a plurality of the tasks.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the using step comprises a step of:
modifying one of the confidence factors during performance of its respective task.
- 5 18. The method of claim 16, further comprising a step of:
determining an aggregated confidence factor, based on confidence factors of a plurality of the tasks.
19. The method of claim 16, wherein the using step comprises steps of:
10 retrieving information for a group of the tasks; and
identifying areas of risk for the project, based on the retrieved information.
20. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises a step of:
identifying proof points for a plurality of the tasks.
- 15 21. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises a step of:
assigning dependency links among the tasks.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the using step comprises a step of:
20 automatically updating templates based on changes to information in tasks that are identified in the dependency links.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein the dependency link identifies a successor task.
- 25 24. The method of claim 22, wherein the dependency link identifies a predecessor task.
25. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises a step of:
identifying success factors for each of a plurality of the tasks.
- 30 26. The method of claim 25, further comprising a step of evaluating the success factors for each of a plurality of the tasks.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising a step of automatically evaluating a success factor for a task, in response to submission of a template corresponding to the task.

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28. The method of claim 10, wherein the using step comprises a step of:
electronically recording feedback information for future projects.

29. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises a step of:
10 linking feedback information to one or more of the templates.

30. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises a step of:
linking respective reference material to each of a plurality of the templates.

15 31. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step comprises a step of:
assigning a respective automated alert criterion to each of a plurality of the tasks.

32. The method of claim 10, wherein each of the templates has the same format.

20 33. A system for managing a project, the system comprising:
means for electronically generating templates, each of the generated templates
corresponding to one or more project tasks and including information about performance
of the respective task or tasks;
means for specifying dependencies among the templates; and
25 means for updating the templates during the project.